DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 151 802 CS 203 983

TITLE Basic Skills and Competencies--Language Arts: A Communications Based Skills List for Grades 1-6.
INSTITUTION New Hampshire Supervisory Union 58, Groveton.
PUB DATE [76]
NOTE 14p.; See related document ED111009

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Basic Skills; *Behavioral Objectives; *Communication Skills; Elementary Education; *Language Arts; Performance Based Education; *Reading Skills; *Sequential Programs; Verbal Communication

ABSTRACT

This document lists language arts skills that average children should be expected to acquire at each grade level from one through six. For each grade, the skills are listed in three major categories: reading skills (word recognition, comprehension strategies, critical reading, and study skills); written communication (writing and language skills); and oral communication (speaking and listening skills). (GW)

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Basic Skills and Competencies

Language Arts

A COMMUNICATIONS BASED SKILLS LIST

FOR GRADES 1-6

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Experimental Schools Program

NH School Supervisory Union #58

INTRODUCTION

A child's language skills development is in part a progression through various skills and competencies, proceeding from the simple to the complex. This skills list identifies many of the more important skills and competencies that are necessary for a child to have at each given level. Because the primary function of language is communication, the skills are organized around three primary types of communications: reading, writing, and talking/listening.

Generally speaking, each skill listed in the skills list is one that an "average" child in our school system should acquire by the end of the school year. Occassionally where a skill may be acquired one year and need reinforcement in following year, it has been listed under more than one grade and starred (**). Sixth grade expecially is seen as a time of review and reinforcement as well as a time for learning new concepts.

This is a revision of an earlier skills list which was compiled in 1975 and encompassed grades 1-12.

[redacted]
Experimental Schools Program
NH School Supervisory Union #58
Groveton, New Hampshire

GRADE 1

I. READING SKILLS *

A. Word Recognition
1. Recognizes both small and capital letters.
2. Recognizes words with both capital and small letters.
3. Discriminates consonant letters and sounds in given exercises.
4. Discriminates vowel letters and sounds.
5. Recognizes homophones, opposites, synonyms and compound words.
6. Recognizes rhyming words.
7. Recognizes words from the Dolch (Kuder-Richardson) list.

B. Comprehension Strategies
1. Uses picture cues to determine story setting, story characters, sequence of action.
2. Understands that words may have more than one meaning.
3. Understands that context determines word meaning.
4. Uses punctuation (such as periods, exclamation point, and question marks) as cues to meaning.
5. Sees the following relationships:
   a. part/whole
   b. size
   c. sequence
   d. cause/effect
   e. time
   f. place.

C. Critical Reading
1. Recognizes the main idea and supporting detail in:
   a. pictures
   b. sentences
   c. paragraphs
   d. selections.
2. Discusses actions and feeling of characters.
3. Recognizes title as a clue to purpose for reading.
4. Reads details to support answers to questions about characters actions and feelings.
5. Categorizes by kind and makes generalization.
6. Identifies story problem and solution.

D. Study Skills
1. Understands and uses the "Pictionary".
2. Alphabetizes to the first letter.
3. Recognizes and uses table of contents.
4. Reads to locate information, to follow directions and to substantiate statements.
5. Recognizes that books are read for differing purposes.

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* Reading skills reflect those taught in Scott Foresman Reading Systems, level 1-4.

II. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Writing Skills
1. Builds sentences from words.
2. Writes complete sentences to express ideas.
3. Writes stories from pictures.
4. Writes two or three sentence stories.

B. Language Skills
1. Capitalizes names and beginning of sentences.
2. Capitalizes days of the week and months of the year.
3. Uses periods and question marks at the ends of sentences.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Speaking Skills
1. Speaks thoughts in sentences.
2. Speaks in front of groups.
3. Orally recalls events.
4. Responds when asked a question.
5. Relates stories sequentially.

B. Listening Skills
1. Listens to and understands others.
2. Listens to and understands stories read aloud.
3. Follows 3-step oral directions.

I. READING SKILLS*

A. Comprehension Strategies
1. Recognizes base words in compounds.
2. Recognizes affixes (suffixes and prefixes).
3. Recognizes homophones.
4. Recognizes words in plural form.
5. Recognizes Dolch Words (Kuder-Richardson).
6. Recognizes and uses relationships between written and spoken language.
7. Uses picture, syntactic and semantic cues to better understand story.
**8. Recognizes and uses the following relationships:
   a. part/whole
   b. size
   c. sequence
   d. time
   e. cause/effect
   f. place
   g. time/place
   h. analogous.

B. Critical Reading Skills
1. Recognizes main ideas and supporting details.
2. Recognizes implied meanings and uses them to grasp main idea.
3. Discusses story problem and solution.
4. Answers questions about story problem and solution.
5. Infers character motives from words and actions.
6. Discusses traits and motives of characters.

C. Study Skills
1. Recognizes that books are read for different purposes.
2. Reads for detailed information.
3. Uses title, introductory paragraphs and illustrations to establish purpose for reading.
4. Alphabetizes to the second letter.
5. Uses the table of contents.
6. Recognizes and uses the glossary including:
   a. guide words
   b. entry words
   c. definition
   d. syllabic division of entry words.
7. Use the picture dictionary to find unknown words.

II. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

A. Writing Skills
1. Writes complete simple sentences.
2. Writes original stories of 4 or more sentences.
3. Writes short basic friendly letters using proper form.
4. Uses discriptive words in writing.

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* Reading skills reflect those taught in Scott Foresman Reading Systems, levels 5-8.

** Reinforcement of previously learned skills.

B. Language Skills
   1. Recognizes and uses periods, question marks, and exclamation points properly in sentences.
   2. Capitalizes names, names of places, months, holidays, initials, titles of books.
   3. Uses contractions and knows how they are formed.
   4. Uses possessive forms of nouns and pronouns.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Speaking Skills
   1. Tells original coherent stories.
   2. Participates in class discussions.
   3. Relates stories sequentially.
   4. Uses descriptive words when telling a story.
   5. Retells stories read.
   6. Verbalizes feelings and personal experiences.

B. Listening Skills
   1. Follows 3-step written directions.
   2. Listens to and understands others.
   3. Listens to and understands stories read aloud.

I. READING SKILLS*

A. Comprehension and Critical Reading Skills
1. Discusses story problems and solutions.
2. Compares story problems and related solutions.
3. Reads to find solution to story problems.
4. Infers and discusses emotional reactions of characters.
5. Recognizes characteristics of biography, fable, fantasy, folk tale, informational article, poetry.
6. Identifies character traits.
7. Uses implied meanings to infer character motives.

B. Study Skills
1. Uses pronounciation key in glossary.
2. Uses annotated bibliography.
3. Uses dictionary, encyclopedia, theseasurus and library card catalogue.

II. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

A. Writing Skills
1. Can put 2 or 3 sentences together to make a paragraph.
2. Writes both questions and declarative sentences.
3. Uses correct form for paragraphs including topic sentence and identation.
4. Uses complete sentences in writing.
5. Knows proper form for a friendly letter (including salutation, body, closing, etc.).
6. Uses descriptive words in creative writing.

B. Language Skills
1. Knows common rules for capitalization.
2. Knows how compound words are formed.
3. Recognizes contractions and knows how they are formed.
4. Uses possessive pronouns.
5. Uses commas on a limited basis.
6. Recognizes nouns and verbs.
7. Recognizes and uses complete sentences.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Speaking Skills
1. Can tell an original coherent story.
2. Can give oral directions clearly.
3. Participates in class discussions.

B. Listening Skills
1. Listens to and understands others.
2. Understands stories read aloud.
3. Can follow 3-step oral directions.

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* Reading skills reflect those taught in Scott Foresman Reading Systems, levels 9-12.

** Reinforcement of previously learned skills.

I. READING SKILLS*

A. Comprehension Strategies
1. Discriminates words similar in form and sound.
2. Recognizes possessive forms of nouns and pronouns.
3. Recognizes relationship between written and spoken language.
4. Uses picture clues to clarify concepts.
5. Understands and follows simple written directions.

B. Critical Reading Skills
1. Recognizes acknowledgements, postscripts footnotes, subtitles.
2. Recognizes titles of address.
3. Recognizes proverbs, tall tales, science fantasy, folk tales, historical fiction and fictionalized biography
4. Identifies the mood of a reading selection.
5. Identifies author's purpose.
6. Identifies character traits.

C. Study Skills
1. Alphabetizes to the second letter.
2. Uses guide words to find dictionary entries.
3. Reads diacritical markings to find pronounciation in a dictionary.
4. Understands the use of primary and secondary accent.
5. Uses the pronounciation key in the dictionary.
6. Divides words into syllables.

II. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Writing Skills
1. Use descriptive words and phrases in everyday writing.
2. Writes simple explanatory paragraphs.
3. Writes simple descriptive paragraphs.
4. Uses proper form for paragraphs.
5. Writes and outlines a simple report.
6. Writes original stories of 2 or 3 paragraphs in length.
7. Writes simple poems.

B. Language Skills
1. Grammar and sentence structure.
   a. recognizes nouns and verbs.
   b. knows parts of a simple sentence (subject/verb).
   c. knows difference between a complete and incomplete sentence.
2. Mechanics
   a. knows common uses of commas (dates, etc.).
   b. knows common uses of question marks.
   c. knows common uses of apostrophe.
   d. knows common rules for making nouns and pronouns plural.
   e. uses possessives correctly.
   f. knows how possessives are formed.

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* Reading skills reflect those taught in Scott Foresman Reading Systems, level 13-15.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Speaking Skills
   1. Gives simple oral reports.
   2. Can give coherent directions on how to do something.
   3. Participates in classroom discussions.

B. Listening Skills
   1. Listens to and understands classmates and teachers.

I. READING SKILLS*

A. Comprehension Strategies
1. Uses semantic cues provided by examples.
2. Uses picture and context cues to understand specialized vocabulary.
3. Recognizes dialect and slang in written materials.
4. Finds main ideas in paragraphs.
5. Finds main ideas in short story.
6. Locates information in a paragraph.
7. Follows written directions.
8. Selects facts to support main idea.
9. Interprets descriptive words and phrases.
10. Recognizes specialized vocabulary of the content areas.

B. Critical Reading Skills
1. Recognizes types of conflict in literature.
2. Recognizes characteristics of biography, historical fiction, drama, autobiography, legends, newspaper articles and haiku.
3. Recognizes sequence and cause/effect relationships in plot development.
4. Identifies mood of reading selections.
5. Organizes plot events by time and sequence.

C. Study Skills
1. Recognizes and uses explanatory notes, book jackets, and book reviews.
2. Uses pronounciation key in dictionaries and glossaries.
3. Reads magazines, table of contents, atlases and almanacs to find information.
4. Understands and uses diacritical markings in diccionaries and glossaries to determine pronounciation of a word.
5. Understands use of library card catalog.
6. Uses a thesaurus to find synonyms.
7. Knows where to find bibliographical data (copyright date, title, publication, etc.).
8. Uses table of contents, charts, pictures and index to find information in a book.

II. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Writing Skills
1. Uses proper form for business letters.
2. Does simple outlining.
3. Writes simple explanatory and descriptive paragraphs.
4. Writes two to four paragraph reports.
5. Writes simple poetry (e.g., haiku, cinguaine, lyric).
6. Writes stories of several paragraphs in length.

B. Language Skills
1. Grammar and sentence structure:
   a. knows the basic parts of speech: noun, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.
   b. can identify a complete and incomplete sentence.
   c. knows sentence parts: subject and predicate.

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* Reading skills reflect those taught in Scott Foresman Systems, levels 16-18.

2. Mechanics
   a. uses punctuation properly: period, exclamation point, question mark.
   b. knows most rules for using commas.
   c. knows use of hyphen.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Speaking Skills
   1. Gives oral reports and book reports.
   2. Participates in plays, using voice expression.
   3. Participates in class discussions.

B. Listening Skills
   1. Follows oral directions.
   2. Listens to and understands selections read aloud.
   3. Listens to and understands members of the class.

I. READING SKILLS *

A. Comprehension Strategies
1. Recognizes technical vocabulary.
2. Recognizes axioms and proverbs.
3. Recognizes advertisements, editors notes, movie reviews, profiles and puns.
4. Uses picture cues to recognize stereotypes.
5. Uses introductory phrases as time cues.
6. Recognizes use of hyphens as cues to spelling of words.
7. Recognizes written forms of colloqual speech.

B. Critical Reading Skills
1. Recognizes elements of style.
2. Recognizes elements of plot structure.
3. Recognizes situational humor, understatements, sarcasm, symbolism and satire.
4. Recognizes use of quotations and excerpts to add realism and dramatic effects.
5. Recognizes characteristics of myths.
6. Recognizes characteristics of mystery stories, essays, science fiction, drama, interviews, and biography.
7. Recognizes purposes for reading and ways of reading for different purposes.
8. Recognizes author's purpose and preparation for writing.
9. Recognizes caricatures and regional stereotypes.
10. Recognizes stereotypes, caricatures, and symbolism in illustrations.
11. Recognizes authors bias and bias in advertising.

C. Study Skills
1. Distinguishes fact from opinion.
2. Compares and evaluates information from different sources.
3. Skims written material to find relevant information.
**4. Uses diacritical markings, phonetic respelling and pronunciation keys in dictionaries to determine word pronounciation.
5. Uses a card catalog to find a specific book or subject.
**6. Knows where to find bibliographical data (title, copyright date, etc.).
7. Summarizes material gathered from reference books.
**8. Uses a thesaurus to find synonyms.

II. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Writing Skills
**1. Writes descriptive paragraphs.
**2. Writes explanatory paragraphs.
3. Writes book reports.
4. Can write a story of several paragraphs in length.
**5. Can write simple poems (haiku, lyric, etc.).
**6. Uses proper form for letters.
**7. Uses proper form for outlining.

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* Reading skills reflect those taught in Scott Foresman Systems, levels 19-21.

** Reinforcement of previously learned skills.

B. Language Skills
   1. Grammar and sentence structure.
      a. knows basic classes of words: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.
      b. understands subject and verb agreement.
      c. identifies complete sentences, incomplete sentences and run on sentences.
      d. knows sentence parts: subject and predicate.
      e. knows proper use of the verb to be.
      f. knows tenses of verbs.

   2. Mechanics
      a. uses quotations correctly.
      b. knows most irregular plurals.
      c. knows possessive nouns and pronouns.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Speaking Skills
   1. Gives oral reports and book reports.
   2. Participates in a classroom discussion.
   3. Takes part in plays using proper expression.

B. Listening Skills
   1. Listens to others in class.
   2. Can follow oral directions.